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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/630,722	07/31/2003	David Alcoe	EI-2-03-008	9362

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, VINH P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2829

DATE MAILED: 09/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/630,722

Applicant(s)

ALCOE, DAVID

Examiner

VINH P. NGUYEN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 12-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10-11 and 14-15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 07/05, 07/03
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.
2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-9,12-13,16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoshino et al (Pat # 6,270,356).

As to claims 1 and 16, Hoshino et al disclose an IC socket as shown in figure 4A having a compressible housing (3,6,7) for housing an electronic component (IC) including a plurality of conductive members (BL) compressibly positioned therein, a base member (1a,1b,2) with a plurality of compressible probes (12) positioned therein and a structure (4,5) for bringing the compressible housing having electronic component (IC) and the base member (1a,1b,2) together such that the compressible probes engages conductive members (BL) of the component (IC).

As to claims 2 and 17, the compressible housing includes a base (3) and a cover (7).

As to claims 3 and 19, the base (3) defines an opening (empty space between the element (6)) and the electronic component is positioned within that opening.

As to claim 4, it appears that the base member (1a,1b,2) includes a plurality of apertures (2a) and a plurality of probes (12) passing through those apertures (2a).

As to claim 5, Hoshino et al also disclose a lock member (8) positioned within the cover (7) to lock the cover (7) onto the base (C) in a compressible manner.

As to claim 6, the lock member (8) is a rotational screw.

As to claims 7 and 18, it appears that the device of Hoshino et al has a compressible member (an element directly connected to the bottom of the cover (7) and positioned directly on the top surface of the IC).

As to claim 8, it appears that the compressible member is a compliant pad.

As to claim 9, it appears that the base (3) is being positioned on the base member (1a,1b,2,3).

As to claim 12, it appears that a conductive substrate (c) as shown in figure 4A inherently has a plurality of pads electrically connected to the lower contact pin (11) of the probe (12) and the base member (1a,1b,2) is positioned on the conductive substrate (C).

As to claim 13, the conductive substrate (C) is a printed circuit board.

As to claim 20, it appears that when the compressible housing ((3,6,7) and the base member (1a,1b,2) are engaged, excessive force application onto the conductive members (BL) by the compressible probes (12) is prohibited so that the conductive members and the probes are prevented from damage during the test.

4. Claims 10-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The prior art does not disclose a base member includes at least one upstanding alignment member and a base includes at least one opening as recited in claim 10. Since claim 11 depends from claim 10 this claim is also objected .

5. Claims 14-15 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 14, it appears that is unclear the limitation of “ said structure for bringing said compressible housing and said base member together comprises a pneumatically driven member” is inaccurate because the pneumatically driven member is a separate device from both of the structure and base member, Appropriate correction is required.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Chang (pat # 5,500,605) discloses electrical test apparatus and method.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VINH P. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-1964. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on 571-272-2034. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

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Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


VINH P NGUYEN
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2829
09/08/05